UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1994/125
7 February 1994
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 4 FEBRUARY 1994 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF GEORGIA AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a joint message addressed to you by B. N. Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation, and E. A. Shevardnadze, Chairman of Parliament and Head of State of the Republic of Georgia, in connection with the lack of a settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Y. M. VORONTSOV
Permanent Representative of the
Russian Federation to the
United Nations

(Signed) G. Z. VOLSKI
Acting Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Georgia to the
United Nations

Annex

We are addressing you in connection with the lack of a settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia. We note with satisfaction the attention the international community has been paying to this serious problem, which poses a real threat to both regional and international peace and security. We appreciate the efforts of the United Nations Security Council and the assistance you personally and your Special Envoy, Edouard Brunner, have been providing in the search for ways to restore a lasting peace in the region.

However, we also view as necessary a substantial and urgent increase in the international community's involvement in the settlement of the conflict. In the course of the Geneva talks held under the auspices of the United Nations with the assistance of Russia, it became obvious that only the deployment of a neutral peace-keeping force in the zone of conflict would be capable of providing the basic measure of external support to the political process that would promote a gradual but steady stabilization of the situation. Such a step, which calls for courage, would create favourable conditions for solving the humanitarian problems, the most important of which is to ensure the return of about 200,000 refugees and displaced persons in safety and dignity; it would also hasten the reaching of agreement regarding the political status of Abkhazia with full respect for the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia.

We once again propose that the Security Council consider, in the very near future, the question of a peace-keeping operation to be carried out by the United Nations or with its authorization, relying, if necessary, on a Russian military contingent. In order to ensure close coordination of action, the number of United Nations international observers in the crisis zone would need to be increased.

We also count on material support for such an operation from the international community. To this end we propose, in particular, that a special fund for voluntary contributions should be established, along the lines of similar funds for United Nations operations in Liberia, Somalia, etc. The resources of this fund would be assigned to cover transport and other expenses related to the activities of the peace-keeping force, the creation of conditions for the return of refugees to their places of permanent residence, and the restoration of vital infrastructure in the affected area.

(Signed) B. YELTSIN
President of the
Russian Federation

(Signed) E. SHEVARDNADZE
Chairman of Parliament,
Head of State of the Republic
of Georgia